

Message Text

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-----119476 171646Z /43
R 170225Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOCI, HU

SUBJECT:PROPOSED VISIT OF AMERICAN-JEWISH COMMITTEE

1. RALPH GOLDMAN OF THE AMERICAN-JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE ASKED DAS LUERS ON JUNE 15 WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE GOH TO INVITE THE JDC LEADERSHIP TO PAY A VISIT TO HUNGARY TO REVIEW HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES JDC HAS BEEN SUPPORTING FOR THE HUNGARIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. AT PRESENT, JDC TRANSFERS FUNDS TO ITS HUNGARIAN PROJECTS THROUGH A GENEVA-BASED ORGANIZATION CALL SOCIETE DE SECOURS ET D ENTR' AIDE. SSE PASSES THE FUNDS ALONG TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN BUDAPEST. THE JDC AND THE HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES ARE BOTH SATISFIED WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT. IN FACT, THE GOH GIVES A TWELVE AND ONE HALF PERCENT EXCHANGE RATE BONUS ON FUNDS SENT BY SSE AND CONTRIBUTES SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND FORINTS TO SSE ACTIVITIES EACH YEAR.

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2. GOLDMAN BELIEVES THAT THE CURRENT IMPROVEMENT IN US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS MAY MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE GOH TO INVITE THE JDC LEADERSHIP TO HUNGARY OR, AT LEAST, TO APPROVE AN INVITATION TO JDC FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HUNGARIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. THE JDC REPRESENTATIVES WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS THEIR PROGRAMS WITH HUNGARIAN-JEWISH LEADERS AND WITH MIKLOS AND TO EXPLORE WITH THEM

THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING JDC PROGRAMS IN HUNGARY.
THEY HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE SUCH
VISITS REGULARLY.

3. WE BELIEVE SUCH AN INVITATION TO THE JDC LEADERSHIP
WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S
COMMENTS ON HOW THE GOH COULD BE APPROACHED AND WHETHER
A POSITIVE RESPONSE IS LIKELY. NEWSOM

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